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C

CA

CONTEXT [Security]

Acronym for certification authority

cable plant

All of an installation's passive communications elements (e.g., optical fibre, twisted pair, or coaxial cable, connectors, splices, etc.) between a transmitter and a receiver.

cache

A high speed memory or storage device used to reduce the effective time required to read data from or write data to a lower speed memory or device. *Read cache* holds data in anticipation that it will be requested by a client. *Write cache* holds data written by a client until it can be safely stored on more permanent storage media such as disk or tape. *cf.* buffer, disk cache, write back cache, write through cache

canister

CONTEXT [Storage System]

An enclosure for a single disk or tape. Canisters are usually designed to mount in shelves, which supply power, cooling, and I/O bus services to the devices. Canisters are used to minimize RF emissions and to simplify insertion and removal of devices in multi-device storage subsystems. *cf.* shelf

carousel

CONTEXT [Data Recovery]

A media handling robot in which the media are stored in and selected from a rotating wheel.

carrier sense multiple access with collision detection

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packet priority.

2. The characteristics and guarantees of the transport layer of a Fibre Channel circuit. Fibre Channel classes of service include: connection services (Classes 1), guaranteed frame delivery with end to end flow control (Class 2), packetized frame datagrams (Class 3), quality of service sub-channels (e.g., constant sub rate or constant latency) (Class 4). Different classes of service may simultaneously exist in a fabric. The form and reliability of delivery in Class 3 circuits may vary with the topology. Different classes of service may simultaneously exist in a fabric.
3. The identification and grouping of data packets based on a priority label (in the packet header) or via other mechanisms (such as "per hop behavior", defined by the IETF's Differentiated Services).

cleartext

CONTEXT [Security]

Alternative term for plaintext. Data in clear text implies that the data is not scrambled or rearranged, and the data is in its raw form.

CLI

Acronym for command line interface.

client

1. An intelligent device or system that requests services from other intelligent devices, systems, or appliances. cf. server
2. An asymmetric relationship with a second party (a server) in which the client initiates requests and the server responds to those requests.

client service request

CONTEXT [Fibre Channel]

A request issued by a client application to a well-known service. An example is a name service query.

cluster

A collection of computers that are interconnected (typically at high-speeds) for the purpose of improving reliability, availability, serviceability and/or performance (via load balancing). Often, clustered computers have access to a common pool of storage, and run special software to coordinate the component computers' activities.

CMIP

CONTEXT [Management] [Network]

Acronym for Common Management Information Protocol.